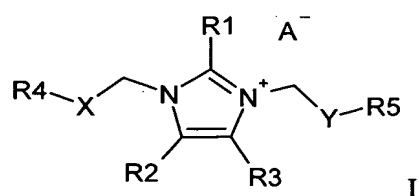


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Imidazolium compounds of formula I

compound of formula (I)



wherein:

A⁻ is an anion;

R₁, R₂ and R₃ are the same or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl, fused aryl, or heteroaryl; or are substituted aryl, fused aryl or heteroaryl;

X and Y are the same or different and are -CH₂, -C=O, -CHOH, -C=S, or -C=NR₆;

R₄ and R₅ are the same or different and are aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, or substituted heteroaryl; and

R₆ is aryl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, OH, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, or aryloxy.

are useful as inhibitors of a chemokine receptor known as CXCR3 and its equivalent chemokine receptors.